

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY378
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Name of Service:	Saint Ultans Childcare Project
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Address of Service:	St. Ultan's Childcare Project, Cherry Orchard Avenue, Cherry Orchard, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Amanda McCoy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	12/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM	46
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Carysfort house, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock Co Dublin
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Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee & O. Quill
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Saint Ultans Childcare Project is registered to provide full day, part time or sessional care to children aged between 0-6 years. It operates within St Ultans primary school in Cherryorchard, Dublin 10. There are two sessional services 8:45am- 11.45 am and 12.45 pm – 3.45pm. There were 8 rooms within the school building, and 3 further rooms within the school grounds. On the day of inspection ten rooms were open. Separate sleep rooms are available for children attending the Maple (Wobbler) and Cherry blossom (Baby)rooms.

Staffing

There are 24 staff employed to work in the service including the person in charge. The registered provider does not work directly with the children but is present within the school building.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the areas of governance and health, welfare, development and safety of the child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (2) & (4) Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11 Staffing levels.

Regulation 15 Record of a Preschool child

Regulation 16 Record in relation to a Preschool Service

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Additional Information

On 12 June 2024, an Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider. Concerns were identified as an immediate and significant risk or is likely to be a risk to the safety of the children attending the service which is contrary to the requirement of Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

It is acknowledged that the registered provider submitted an adequate response on 13 June 2024 to the concerns identified which rectified the risk identified.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
(b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

(a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,

(b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,

(c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.

(b) The person in charge was present on the premises during the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or a named deputy to be present at all times of opening.

(2) Garda vetting disclosures for twenty-four adults were reviewed on the day of inspection. Three new members of staff commenced working in the service since the last inspection dated 25 September 2023. These files were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation.

(a) Six validated references were available from past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults and twenty-three were dated within the last three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as none of the adults had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) There was evidence that the three new members of staff, who were working directly with the children had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 17 adults working directly with 60 children.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement was maintained during the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The required information was available as outlined below.

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
- (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s medical practitioner.
- (h) Immunisation details.
- (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)

- (h) Details of children’s attendance was available including the time they arrived at and left the service.
- (i) A staff roster was available detailing the start and finish times of all adults.
- (k) Records were available detailing accidents, injuries and incidents involving children.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Heavy equipment was secured to prevent tipping and injury. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. Toys and play equipment observed in use by children on the day of inspection were safe and in working order.

Infection Control:

Children washed their hands after outdoor play, after using the toilet and before eating; staff washed their own and children’s hands after nappy changing. The premises and equipment were clean and well maintained.

Safe Sleep:

There was evidence of the policy on safe sleep was being implemented. Staff knew the requirements and had a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding the children when sleeping. Cots and low-lying beds were available for the children to sleep appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Sleep checks were conducted and recorded on the children at 10-minute intervals. The room temperature when the children under 12 months were sleeping was maintained between 16-20 degrees Celsius.

Outing:

The person in charge stated that the children are not taken on outings from the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. On 12 June 2024, an Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider as 16 blind cords were not secured to the wall or broken. Nine of these were in reach of the children and posed a risk of strangulation. The registered provider submitted an adequate response on 13 June 2024 to the concerns identified which addressed the risk.
2. Garda vetting was available for one adult, however, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.

Infection Control:

Infection control practices observed during the inspection were ineffective and posed a risk of cross infection and were at variance with the service's policy as outlined below:

1. During the nappy changing practices, staff were observed to redress children with the same used gloves throughout the procedure.
2. The nappy changing mat used by the children from the Olive room could not be cleaned effectively. Inspectors observed a large tear in the mat with the inner foam exposed.
3. Three open top bins were observed in the Cabin, Maple and Oak rooms.
4. Adults and children were observed lifting the lid of the bins with their hands and not using the foot pedal provided.

Administration of Medication:

A sample of medication records were reviewed. Four of these records were not completed as per the policy of the service.

1. Two records of medication which was given, had the child's first name only. No parental consent for giving this medication was recorded.
2. Two records of medication did not have any identifying details for the children to whom the medication was given. There was no parental consent recorded to give this medication.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. On 13 June 2024, the service secured and repaired all 16 blind cords. The service has started the process of replacing any old blinds and will have any broken/worn blinds replaced over the summer weeks. The manager has spoken to staff at a staff meeting and asked all staff to let the manager know if any blind cords are not secured so we can immediately have the cords secured to the wall and completely out of the reach of children.
2. Renewal of Garda vetting was sent off on the day of inspection and has since returned complete. Ensure Garda vetting is dated within the previous three years by checking staff files on a regular basis.

Infection Control:

1. Nappy changing policy was given to staff to re-read and when the nappy changing procedure was understood we asked all staff members to sign the document. Nappy changing procedure is now printed and on display in every nappy changing facility in the building.
2. Nappy Changing mat was removed immediately and replaced with new nappy changing mat. Ensure nappy changing mats are checked on a regular basis and we asked staff to please inform us if any equipment is in any way damaged so it can be discarded of immediately.
3. Open top bins were immediately removed from the three rooms and replaced with closed lid pedal bins. Ensure all bins are checked on a regular basis to guarantee all bins are closed lid bins with the foot pedal in working order.
4. The manager to staff in our staff meeting to please ensure that the pedals are used on the bins at all times and to teach the children to use the foot pedals at all times. Infection control policy was given to all staff to re-read and sign.

Administration of Medication:

1. The manager has spoken to the individual staff members responsible for the incomplete forms and explained the importance of ensuring that forms are completed in full.
2. The manager has asked all staff members to read and sign a document which gives a in detail description of the procedure of administrating medication within the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Written and photographic.

Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence,

Administration of Medication:

Written records.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-
(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) A person trained as First Aid Responders was available to the children.

On the day of inspection, the staff roster confirmed two staff were trained as First Aid Responders and were available to the children.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored in conspicuous positions easily accessible to staff.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Records were available of fire drills carried out in the service. The most recent drill recorded was dated 6 June 2024.
 - (b) A record was available detailing the maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated 10 November 2023 and 23 March 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position